

The Thomas Bill, which attracted so much attention on the part of the legislature, is printed in this issue. This bill provided for a better system of county supervision of schools. It met a defeat as overwhelming as the present system is a failure. Seventy-one opposed the thirty-eight who favored it.

But the cause for which the bill stood is by no means defeated. Nay, we can add it is far stronger to-day, than it was a month or a week ago. Right will triumph; so will the cause of expert supervision.

The bill, of course, had some imperfections in it. Some members of the house, however, in their mad rush to kill it did not give its friends the opportunity to make certain needed alterations and corrections. Had this been done the provision for the appointment of the first county board by the State board would probably have been changed so that the selection would have been made in some other way. This first board as well as the succeeding ones might have been elected by the people. Another change was also necessary. A minimum as well as a maximum salary should have been incorporated in the bill.

"Impractical," "theoretical," "revolutionary," "undemocratic," "one-man power," and a whole host of other concocted phrases were the weapons used for the murder of the bill. Underlying these outward expressions, however, was a foregone determination not to consider the bill on its merits or the merits of the bill. Some may have been honest in their convictions in not supporting it, but with a very large majority the fear of making any change, wise or otherwise, was the ruling factor.

Unfortunately the bill was not an administrative measure, but the author assumed responsibility for the same. True, it accorded fully with the suggestions of Mr. McMahan in his annual report. This, however, should rather have militated in its favor, for if there is any one that should be qualified for suggesting needed legislation it is the head of an executive department. We have said unfortunately, and that advisedly, for Mr. McMahan like all reformers—he is an educational reformer—has been so close to the line in his determination to correct the evils of our educational system that a very large measure of opposition has been gratuitously accorded him. "Impractical" and "theoretical" have been the chief words of the politicians against his earnest and courageous efforts for advancement all along the line—not simply at the bottom.

The bill was not only not impractical but was based upon the soundest business principle. Every business corporation is run by the same fundamental law incorporated in this bill. No business can be made a success without a competent head. Supervising talent commands the highest prices on the commercial market. The law for determining the salaries of superintendents of corporation is not what the directors think should be paid the office, but is based upon what he proves to them he can make their investment yield. A small corporation with a high salaried supervising officer may bring far more smiles on dividend day than the large corporation with a low priced superintendent. This same law applied to schools would mean that it were far better to shorten terms, if necessary, if thereby the better returns were made.

The statement made on the floor that the need of our schools was not met, but money was not carefully thought out. The statement reversed is our great educational need. The same amount of money as at present with competent supervision would be equal to a far larger amount with the present supervision.

One of the most accurate statements made in connection with

the whole discussion was that the average county superintendent of education is the laughing stock of his county. This does not mean that he is a fool necessarily. He may be a good, straightforward, useful man. But his complete incompetency is so inconsistent with the high duties he assumes that the average man can not help laughing at the contrast.

It is no longer a mooted question that such men as can not be elected to higher—better paying we mean—office apply for the position of county superintendent. Of those who are elected a very large per cent could not stand the examination for a first grade teacher as required by State law. As a matter of fact the office is the dumping ground for political failures or the first round for political aspirants.

In this respect what a great difference is there between the present system and what was proposed—and what is still proposed. Only men experienced in school work would be eligible for election and their election would be removed in a very large measure from political influences. Of the present county superintendents how many are experienced in school work in the school room? How many have successfully taught? A good number of them have possibly done some teaching, but we doubt that of the whole forty there is a single one who could under any circumstances be chosen the superintendent of a town school with a salary of \$900. And yet they are called upon to supervise a teaching corps and hundreds of children.

The plea that the proposed law would be a removal of authority from the hands of the many into those of the few is the same old demagogic appeal made when the authority formerly vested in patrons was transferred to the trustees. But what community would again wait the election of teacher and all minor details placed in the hands of the patrons? No, no the trustees are the proper persons to attend to these matters. This very principle should govern the choice of a county superintendent who should bear the same relation to all the schools of the county as the individual principal to his own school. Call this undemocratic if you will. Democracy and all democratic principles to the winds if the blind following of what we cherish as a good given principle must retard the intellectual development of the youth of our land.

THE THOMAS BILL.

Section 1. That in July, 1902, the State board of education, upon the joint recommendation of the governor and the State superintendent of education, shall appoint for each county in the State, a county board of education, consisting of five members; two to serve for two years, two to serve for four years, and one to serve for six years, and until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. The successors of the said members of the said county board shall be chosen by the electors of the county for a term of six years each, two at the general election in 1904, and every six years thereafter; two at the general election in 1906, and every six years thereafter; and at the general election in 1908, and every six years thereafter. Provided, however, That candidates for these positions shall not be assessed in any primary elections. Vacancies shall be filled by the county board of education itself, until the next general election.

Sec. 2. That each member of the county board of education shall receive for attendance on its meetings, \$3 per diem, and 5 cents for each mile of necessary travel going to and from the meetings, for not more than ten meetings in any one year, the per diem and mileage to be paid by the county treasurer out of the ordinary funds of the county, upon the warrants of the chairman of the board, audited and approved as other county claims.

Sec. 3. That the county board of education of each county, appointed as herein provided, shall meet and organize by electing one of its members chairman and another member secretary pro tem, and shall thereafter exercise all the rights, privileges, powers and duties now devolved by law upon the present county board of education and county superintendent of education, severally or jointly, and may use the seal now used by the county superintendent of education until a new seal

shall be provided by the board of county commissioners.

Sec. 4. That the county board of education of each county shall provide expert supervision for the schools of the county, and for this purpose shall employ a man skilled in the science and art of teaching and of school management, who shall supervise all the schools of the county, instruct the teachers, counsel the trustees, assign teachers to the schools for which the boards of trustees have not employed teachers by July 1st of each year, and shall further serve as secretary of the county board, make for it its reports required by the State superintendent of education, and perform such other duties on behalf of the said board as it shall impose.

Sec. 5. That the said superintendent of schools employed by the county board of education, shall devote his entire time to the inspection, supervision, care and management of the schools and the school interests of the county, under the direction of the county board of education, the State board of education, and the State superintendent of education, and in compensation for his services shall receive such salary as the county board of education may have fixed, not to exceed \$500 a year, to be paid by the county treasurer upon warrants of the chairman of the county board of education audited and approved as other county claims.

Sec. 6. That the present county boards of education and county superintendents of education shall be superseded and their offices abolished as soon as the boards herein provided for, shall meet and organize. Provided, however, That the county superintendent of education of each county shall make to the State superintendent of education the annual report required by law for the school year 1901 and 1902, and upon a certificate from the State superintendent of education that such report has been made satisfactorily, shall be paid by the board of county commissioners the full salary for the remainder of the term for which he was elected.

Sec. 7. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

A FAIRFIELD MAN.

While some men are over-rated, which is not only an individual, but also a public evil, we nevertheless find occasionally some who are under-rated. They are modest and retiring; they love the shade, and have no desire to show it. They generally possess a certain timidity; and what is more, you never hear them boast of their moral or intellectual attainments, however great they may be. The only way you can ascertain the value of such men is to draw them out. I have in mind a dear brother precisely of this character.

He was a graduate of South Carolina College of the class of 1854, and was my senior deacon for a number of years, while pastor of his church. He was a fine Greek scholar. I remember one day at his house, we had some reason for studying the fourth chapter of Romans. He took the Greek, and I the A. version. He first read the chapter, giving his own version; and really, in a few instances where the versions differed, his own threw additional light on the text. He took great delight in botany, and could keep you deeply interested for hours in garden, orchard, or forest. He knew much of the history of many plants and trees that had been introduced from Europe.

But he sometimes met with seasons of depression, if not of despondency. He had educated his four children, who were all grown and members of the church, but his pecuniary means were quite limited, and the future began to grow dark. On one occasion, as he told me, he felt so distressed from his need of a little help that he left his house, walked out into the woods, to ask God's help and open up a brighter way. He really felt his need—he prayed—God heard him. On his return, as he neared the house, he saw some one at the gate, horseback. On approaching, the messenger handed him a letter from the school commissioner of his county, containing thirty-five dollars payment for an old account for teaching, which he had long since given up as lost. He had reached an oasis. His dark apprehensions were all dispelled, and he went on his way rejoicing. Who was this man? He was Deacon Chippell O. Trapp, of Fairfield.—Baptist Courier.

Prevented a Tragedy.

Timely information given Mr. Geo. Long, of New Straitsville, Ohio, prevented a dreadful tragedy and saved two lives. A frightful cough had long kept her awake every night. She had tried many remedies and doctors, but steadily grew worse until urged to try Dr. King's New Discovery. One bottle wholly cured her; and she writes this marvelous medicine also cured Mr. Long of a severe attack of pneumonia. Such cures are positive proof of the matchless merit of this grand remedy for curing all throat, chest and lung troubles. Only 50c and \$1.00. Every bottle guaranteed. Trial bottles free. McMaster Co.'s drug store.

A FLOURISHING SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Mr. Editor: Fairfield county has reason to be proud of school district No. 1. It is in some respects one of the banner school districts in the State. We have three white schools running nine months in the year all supported by a special levy.

Each school house is painted inside and out, fitted with comfortable seats and liberally supplied with maps, globes and charts but above all the teacher is given the hearty support of the patrons and it must be a poor teacher, indeed, who does not feel that it is a pleasure to teach under these circumstances.

While all three schools do service credit I will only tell of Fairfield as I know it best. When I came here, nearly two years ago, there were only enough desks to seat about one-half the pupils the house was gutted of paint and poorly supplied with anything. Since then we have added four cloth blackboards enough desks to seat all the pupils, a teacher's desk, a book-case and a 12 inch globe, have painted the building throughout and put nice blinds to the windows. We are now drilling for an entertainment to raise money for books. We have an enrollment of 35 and an attendance of 30. The children are interested in school work and I have never seen pupils make more satisfactory progress.

I am glad to say that the esprit de corps is such that although perfect order has been maintained the last has not been used in the school room since I have been here.

In closing let me say that much of what has been done would have been impossible without the aid of five trustees and I wish that every teacher in the State had a trustee like Mr. J. G. Welling. Yours truly,

M. E. Bethea.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*
"MR. WALES"

An Amusing Incident of a Royal Visitor to America.

When the Prince of Wales made his tour of the States in 1859 he visited Baltimore on his return from Richmond, Va., and was escorted from the Camden station to the Gilmore House by the City Guards, then Baltimore's crack military organization. Colonel Joe Warner, who commanded the guards, was a bluff old soldier, intense American with most pronounced Democratic ideas. After the battalion reached the hotel, Major Swann, who had the privilege of charge, invited the officers into the hotel parlor to be introduced to his royal highness. Of course, Colonel Warner was the first to be so honored. Advancing toward the prince he grasped his outstretched hand, and, giving it a vigorous shake, exclaimed: "Mr. Wales, I am very happy to make your acquaintance." The officers of the Guards stood aghast at this extreme cordiality on the part of their commander, and an amused expression came over the face of the prince; but, giving the colonel a vigorous shake as he had received, he good humoredly expressed his pleasure at the compliment paid him.

Upon the return of the Guards to their armory Major Lloyd Parks, who entertained entirely different notions of etiquette from his colonel, took him to task for his brusqueness. Colonel Joe listened in surprise at the rebuke of his subordinate, and when he had concluded he said:

"See here, Lloyd, I took a liking to that young fellow; there's nothing of the aristocrat about him. Why, he doesn't wear a better hat than I do. He may be a prince in his own country, and maybe some day he'll be a king; but so long as he's in these great United States he's Ed. Wales and I'm Joe Warner."—Yorkville Enquirer.

Bismarck's Iron Nerve.

Was the result of his splendid health. I don't believe will and tremendous energy are not found where Stomach, Liver, Kidneys and Bowels are out of order. If you want these qualities and the success they bring, use Dr. King's New Life Pills. They develop every power of brain and body. Oat 25c. at McMaster Co.'s drug store.

"John!" whispered the good woman in the dead of night, "there are burglars down-stairs."
"You go down, dear," replied John, sleepily. "They wouldn't dare take a woman."—Philadelphia Press.

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She: "But my mother says that a maid should not converse with strangers."
Mother Van der Maat: "I bow to thy mother's wisdom. Prudence, let us not be strangers!"—Puck.

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